

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000591

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Drug Testing

Type of Question: Hansard Page 59, 30 May 2017

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: That would be appreciated. You were speaking earlier about the specific testing that is contained in the budget. Have you provided advice about drug testing in general to the Department of Social Services—not the specific budget measure, but about drug testing in general.

Mr Smith: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: That would be appreciated. In the discussions you were having DSS, was there any discussion of your knowledge of drug testing internationally?

Mr Smith: We will take that on notice. Dr Studdert indicated that we would go away and have a look at the broader nature of the advice that had been provided and what was included in that—

Senator SIEWERT: I understand that, but we are asking DSS questions tomorrow, so I would appreciate as much information as possible now. That is why I am asking. If you are aware of it now I would appreciate knowing now.

Mr Smith: I am not aware of any advice on that nature. That does not mean we did not provide it. I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of Health has, in previous years, had discussions with the Department of Social Security (DSS) in relation to drug testing methods. Within the last two years, officials from the Department of Health have, on several occasions, discussed general issues relating to drug testing with DSS officials.